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# SOME EXAMPLES OF CONDITIONALLY FREE PRODUCT

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## INTRODUCTION

*Free convolution* is a binary operation  $\boxplus$  on the class of probability measures on  $\mathbb{R}$ , which corresponds to the notion of free independence. More precisely, if  $X_1, X_2$  are free random variables in a noncommutative probability space  $(\mathcal{A}, \psi)$  (i.e.  $\mathcal{A}$  is a unital complex  $*$ -algebra,  $\phi$  is a state on  $\mathcal{A}$ ), with distributions  $\nu_1, \nu_2$  respectively, then  $\nu_1 \boxplus \nu_2$  is the distribution of  $X_1 + X_2$  (for the background on the free probability theory we refer to the books [10, 12]). The free convolution of two measures can only be described indirectly, either analytically, using the Voiculescu  $R$ -transform [12, 2, 4] or combinatorially, by free cumulants [10, 9].

Bożejko, Leinert and Speicher [3] introduced notion of conditionally freeness on a noncommutative probability space  $\mathcal{A}$ , equipped with two states. This leads to *conditionally free convolution*  $\boxplus_c$ , a binary operation on *pairs* of compactly supported probability measures on  $\mathbb{R}$ , see [3, 8, 9]. The aim of this paper is to show that in some important cases the conditionally free convolution can be reduced to the free convolution.

## 1. FREE AND CONDITIONALLY FREE PRODUCT

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{M}^c$ ) denote the class of (compactly supported) probability measures on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then for  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$  we define the *Cauchy transform*:

$$G_\mu(z) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{d\mu(x)}{z - x},$$

which is an analytic map from the upper half-plane  $\mathbb{C}^+ := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Im z > 0\}$  into the lower half-plane  $\mathbb{C}^- := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Im z < 0\}$ , satisfying

$$(1) \quad \lim_{y \rightarrow +\infty} iyG_\mu(iy) = 1.$$

Moreover, every analytic function  $G : \mathbb{C}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^-$  satisfying (1) is Cauchy transform of a unique probability measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ , see [1, 5].

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If  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}^c$  then  $G_\nu(z)$  can be represented as a continued fraction

$$(2) \quad G_\nu(z) = \frac{1}{z - u_0 - \frac{\alpha_0}{z - u_1 - \frac{\alpha_1}{z - u_2 - \frac{\alpha_2}{z - u_3 - \frac{\alpha_3}{\ddots}}}}},$$

where the *Jacobi parameters* satisfy:  $\alpha_k \geq 0$ ,  $u_k \in \mathbb{R}$  and if  $\alpha_m = 0$  for some  $m \geq 0$  then  $\alpha_n = u_n = 0$  for all  $n > m$ .

For a pair  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}^c$  we define the free and the conditionally free transform,  $R_\nu$  and  $R_{\mu, \nu}$ , as complex functions which satisfy

$$(3) \quad \frac{1}{G_\nu(z)} = z - R_\nu(G_\nu(z)),$$

$$(4) \quad \frac{1}{G_\mu(z)} = z - R_{\mu, \nu}(G_\nu(z)).$$

Then, for  $\mu_1, \nu_1, \mu_2, \nu_2 \in \mathcal{M}^c$ , the conditionally free convolution

$$(5) \quad (\mu, \nu) = (\mu_1, \nu_1) \boxplus_c (\mu_2, \nu_2)$$

is defined by the equalities

$$(6) \quad R_\nu(z) = R_{\nu_1}(z) + R_{\nu_2}(z),$$

$$(7) \quad R_{\mu, \nu}(z) = R_{\mu_1, \nu_1}(z) + R_{\mu_2, \nu_2}(z).$$

In particular,  $\nu$  is the free product  $\nu_1 \boxplus \nu_2$ .

## 2. A FAMILY OF TRANSFORMS

For  $a \geq 0$ ,  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}$  we define a transform  $T(a, u, v) : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  defining  $\mu := T(a, u, v)(\nu)$  by

$$(8) \quad \frac{1}{G_\mu(z)} := z - u - \frac{a}{\frac{1}{G_\nu(z)} - v} = z - u - \frac{aG_\nu(z)}{1 - vG_\nu(z)}.$$

Note that the measure  $\mu$  is well defined, as the reciprocal of the right hand side is a function  $\mathbb{C}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^-$  satisfying (1). Moreover, if  $G_\nu$  admits the expansion (2) as continued fraction then

$$(9) \quad G_\mu(z) = \frac{1}{z - u - \frac{a}{z - u_0 - v - \frac{\alpha_0}{z - u_1 - \frac{\alpha_1}{z - u_2 - \frac{\alpha_2}{z - u_3 - \frac{\alpha_3}{\ddots}}}}}}.$$

Combining (4) with (8) we observe that

$$(10) \quad R_{\mu, \nu}(w) = u + \frac{aw}{1 - vw}.$$

## SOME EXAMPLES OF CONDITIONALLY FREE PRODUCT

**Proposition 2.1.** Assume that  $a_1, a_2 \geq 0$ ,  $u_1, u_2, v \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\nu_1, \nu_2 \in \mathcal{M}^c$  and that  $\mu_1 := T(a_1, u_1, v)(\nu_1)$ ,  $\mu_2 := T(a_2, u_2, v)(\nu_2)$ . Then

$$(\mu_1, \nu_1) \boxplus_c (\mu_2, \nu_2) = (\mu, \nu_1 \boxplus \nu_2),$$

where

$$\mu = T(a_1 + a_2, u_1 + u_2, v)(\nu_1 \boxplus \nu_2).$$

In particular, if  $\nu$  is infinitely divisible with respect to free convolution,  $a \geq 0$ ,  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}$ , then the pair  $(T(a, u, v)(\nu), \nu)$  is infinitely divisible with respect to the conditionally free convolution.

*Proof.* The first statement is a consequence of (6), (7) and (10). Consequently, if  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}^c$  is  $\boxplus$ -infinitely divisible then the family

$$(T(ta, tu, v)(\nu^{\boxplus t}), \nu^{\boxplus t}),$$

$t > 0$ , is a  $\boxplus_c$ -semigroup of pairs of measures. □

**Example.** For  $a, b > 0$ ,  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}$  denote by  $\mu(a, b, u, v)$  the unique measure satisfying

$$G_{\mu(a,b,u,v)}(z) = \frac{1}{z - u - \frac{a}{z - v - \frac{b}{z - v - \frac{b}{z - v - \frac{b}{\ddots}}}}}$$

(this family of measures was studied in [11]). Then, in view of the results from [6], for  $a, b > 0$ ,  $u, v, \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $a + \alpha, b + \alpha > 0$ , we have

$$\mu(a, a + \alpha, u, u + \beta) \boxplus \mu(b, b + \alpha, v, v + \beta) = \mu(a + b, a + b + \alpha, u + v, u + v + \beta).$$

With this notation the limit pairs of measures in the central and Poisson theorems for the conditionally free convolution can be represented as

$$(11) \quad (\mu(a, b, 0, 0), \mu(b, b, 0, 0)) = (T(a, 0, 0)(\mu(b, b, 0, 0)), \mu(b, b, 0, 0)),$$

$$(12) \quad (\mu(a, b, a, b + 1), \mu(b, b, b, b + 1)) = (T(a, a, 1)(\mu(b, b, b, b + 1)), \mu(b, b, b, b + 1)),$$

respectively, where  $a, b > 0$  are parameters (see [3, 7]). Denoting the former pair (11) by  $\vec{\nu}(a, b)$  and the latter (12) by  $\vec{\pi}(a, b)$ , we note that the families  $\{\vec{\nu}(a, b)\}_{a,b>0}$  and  $\{\vec{\pi}(a, b)\}_{a,b>0}$  are both two-parameter semigroups with respect to the conditionally free convolution, i.e. for  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 > 0$  we have:

$$\vec{\nu}(a_1, b_1) \boxplus_c \vec{\nu}(a_2, b_2) = \vec{\nu}(a_1 + a_2, b_1 + b_2),$$

$$\vec{\pi}(a_1, b_1) \boxplus_c \vec{\pi}(a_2, b_2) = \vec{\pi}(a_1 + a_2, b_1 + b_2).$$

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